

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W

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R 221640Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7263

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 6191

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP MR AG

SUBJECT: FONMIN LARAKI ON SAHARA DISPUTE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS TO ME AT DEC. 19 DINNER IN HONOR OF IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI, AT WHICH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND I WERE THE ONLY WESTERNERS PRESENT:

A. MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS: THE GOM, LARAKI SAID, IS CONCERNED THAT THE ALGERIAN ANTI-MOROCCAN CAMPAIGN IS BECOMING IRRATIONAL IN ITS INTENSITY. HE STRESSED THAT GOM SEEKS NO CONFLICT WITH ALGERIA. MOROCCAN MILITARY ACTIVITY, HE SAID, WAS DESIGNED ONLY TO IMPRESS THE ALGERIANS WITH MOROCCO'S SERIOUSNESS AND DISCOURAGE THEM FROM ACTING
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HASTILY.

B. ALGERIAN DIPLOMACY: LARAKI SAID THAT ALGERIA WAS EXTREMELY ACTIVE AND CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAHARA AT THE UN. IT HAD TRIED TO BRIBE YEMEN TO CHANGE ITS VOTE WITH \$5 MILLION AND HAD PUT EXTREME PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS THROUGH ANGOLA. THE ALGERIANS WERE NOT COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL IN CHANGING THE SOVIET ATTITUDE, LARAKI SAID, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD MANAGED TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE VOTE IN THE UNGA. ANGOLA AND THE ALGERIAN ROLE SHOULD GIVE PAUSE TO REFLECT, HE SUGGESTED. LARAKI ALSO REMARKED THAT THE LIBYANS HAD BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED FURNISHING MIS 23'S TO ALGERIA.

C. IRAQI MEDIATION: WHEN I ASKED IF HAMMADI WAS HERE TO MEDIATE THE SAHARA DISPUTE, LARAKI SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT WAS NOT RPT NOT THE CASE. HAMMADI WAS VISITING RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT (HE LEFT RABAT DEC. 20) TO ORIENT HIMSELF ON THE CONFLICT. (THE IRANIAN, SAUDI AND TUNISIAN AMBASSADORS LATER OPINED TO ME THAT HAMMADI WAS TAKING A SOUNDING. IN THEIR VIEW, IF HE FOUND POSITIVE INDICATIONS FOR AN IRAQI ROLE, SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD ASSUME THE MANTLE OF MEDIATOR HIMSELF).
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